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## **LifeWays lauds Sen. Beverly Hammerstrom for her advocacy and service**

**LANSING** – LifeWays of Jackson recently presented state Sen. Beverly Hammerstrom, R-Temperance, with its 2006 Legislative Advocacy and Public Policy Award.

During its annual awards luncheon Friday, LifeWays honored Hammerstrom for her many years of dedicated service to persons with mental illness or developmental disabilities.

“Senator Hammerstrom has been a tireless and dedicated advocate for those most in need in our state,” said Nancy A. Miller, chief executive officer of LifeWays. “Her efforts to assist Michigan’s mental health community have had an immeasurable impact.”

During her 14 years of service in the Michigan Legislature, Hammerstrom helped to re-write the state’s mental health code and continues to make mental health issues a priority as chair of the Senate Health Policy Committee.

The 2006 LifeWays Legislative Advocacy and Public Policy Award is given to an elected official that has increased the quality of life and services for LifeWays consumers through effective legislative advocacy and public policy making.

“Senator Hammerstrom has been our voice in Lansing for many years,” Miller continued. “Her compassion and determination to fight for the rights of those with mental illness and developmental disabilities is commendable. We want to thank her for the inspiration she has given to many and the difference she has made for thousands.”

LifeWays manages allocated state and county resources to ensure quality behavioral health treatment and services for Jackson and Hillsdale county residents who meet requirements for eligibility.

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